

received from Ministries/Departments, the number of retired Govt. servants engaged as consultants in the last two years is 52.

(b) As per guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministries/Deptts are competent to engage Consultants upto a period of six months keeping in view the requirements of work/specific jobs of a specialised nature. Evaluation of their performance is not required to be carried out centrally.

(c) The strength of retired Government servants engaged as Consultants by Ministries/Departments, as per information available, is generally within the prescribed limits. If engagement of Consultants beyond limits prescribed is envisaged, prior approval of Department of Personnel and Training is necessary. As such, there is no proposal to review the strength of consultants.

Cess on Crude Oil

656. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) The amount of crude cess collected during each of the last three years;

(b) the contribution of Assam towards crude cess each year against which the amount of assistance provided by Oil Industry Development Board (OIDB) for the development of refineries in Assam;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide adequate funds for development of refineries in Assam through OIDB; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU):

(a) The information is given in statement-I.

(b) The information is given in Statement-II.

(c) and (d) Government provides funds for development of refineries through OIDB and other means depending on several factors such as commercial viability of the project, availability of funds with OIDB as well as internal and extra-budgetary resources of the Companies. Accordingly, refineries in Assam may be provided funds depending upon the said factors.

Statement-I

Statement regarding Collection of Cess on Crude Oil

(Rs/Crores)

| Year | Amount |
|---------|---------|
| 1993-94 | 2160.89 |
| 1994-95 | 2548.97 |
| 1995-96 | 2800.63 |
| Total | 7510.49 |

Statement-II

*Contribution of Assam towards Crude Cess**

(Rs/Crores)

| Year | Amount |
|---------|--------|
| 1993-94 | 434.85 |
| 1994-95 | 431.62 |
| 1995-96 | 437.20 |

Statement regarding OIDB assistance to Refineries in Assam

(Rs/Crores)

| Year | Amount |
|---------|--------|
| 1993-94 | 50.00 |
| 1994-95 | 102.44 |
| 1995-96 | 251.49 |
| Total | 403.93 |

*The statement of collection of cess has been provided by the Office of Commissioner of Central Excise and Customs, Shillong.

Power Generation

657. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL:
SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group on Power in Planning Commission had projected 57,000 M.W. of power generation during the Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, whether the projections of the Working Group has been accepted by the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Planning Commission has agreed for generation of only 40,000 M.W. during the Plan;

(e) if so, the reasons for this massive curtailment; and

(f) the action proposed by the Government to meet the increasing demand of Power in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The Working Group on Power for Ninth Plan set up by Planning Commission under the Chairmanship